Urea imports in value terms have come down since 1996-97. This is due to considerable increase in indigenous production of urea.

The policy of the Government is to achieve maximum degree of self-sufficiency in nitrogenous fertilizers with only margianl quantity of improts to fill the gap between demand and indigenous availability.

Unpunctuality of Delhi-Ghaziabad EMUs

*492. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seized of the difficulties being faced by approximately 1,50,000 rail commuters of Sahibabad due to unpunctuality in running of EMU trains from Ghaziabad to New Delhi—Shakurbasti and also due to inadequate number of EMU trains from Sahibabad / Ghaziabad to New Delhi;

(b) whether, in view of heavy increase in the number of rail users at Sahibabad / Ghaziabad stations, Government propose to introduce some new services to cater to the needs of commuters ane other passengers;

(c) if so, by when these services would be introduced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (d) About 8,200 commuters board 29 pairs of EMU trains passing through Sahibabad every day. Introduction of additional services is an on-going process. However, at present, due to saturation of line capacity in Delhi Area and lack of other infrastructure, there is no proposal to add to the existing services since that, if restored to, may jeopardise the safety considerations on this critical section.

Water scarcity in Gir Sanctuary

*493. DR.C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that an acute water scarcity threatens the lives of thousands of wild animals in Gir Sanctuary, and

(b) if so, whether Central Government have taken any immediate steps to save the wild animals and with what results?

THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Gujarat Government has taken several measures to ensure availability of drinking water on a regular basis to the wild animals in Gir forests. Govt. of India has also released central assistance of Rs. 40.00 lakhs under the centrally sponsored scheme, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries during the current financial year to augment the resources of the state Government to tackle the drought situation. As reported by the state Government no wild animal has died due to the water scarcity caused by the drought.

Rail Track Between Ahmedabad and Mumbai

*494. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the former Minister of XII Lok Sabha had visited Gujarat and had assured that a third rail track between Ahmedabad and Mumbai on the basis of the heavy traffic there would be laid;

(b) if so, whether the survey was conducted; and

(c) if not, by when the survey would take place and on which date survey report would be sent?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) No, Sir. However, an announcement was made that Final Location Survey would be started.

(b) and (c) Based on Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey done, it has been decided to take up the work in a phased manner and in first phase, 3rd line between Surat and Kosamba has been included in the Budget 2000-01. Final Location Survey for this stretch is now being taken up.

Poor Status of Primary Education in Orissa

*495. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the status or infrastructure of primary education is very poor in Orissa;